



BLÜDHAVEN EPILOGUE

15

DC UNIVERSE
REBIRTH

NIGHTWING™



SEELEY
JUNG
SOTOMAYOR

ISO TO!

RATED T TEEN DCCOMICS.COM APR 2017



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REBIRTH

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NIGHTWING



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JUNG
SOTOMAYOR

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68 DAYS AGO:

In the story of any good hero, there's always a romance.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU, *DICK GRAYSON*.

Robin Hood had Maid Marian. Hercules had Megara.

And since I guess I'm the hero of my story, here's a tale of romance...

BUT NOW THE ENTIRE *NEAR DARK CLUB* SURE DOES.

HA. YOU CAN'T SPEND YOUR ENTIRE YOUTH HANGING OFF OF *GARGOYLES* WITHOUT A LITTLE *GOth* RUBBING OFF ON YOU.

SO, DRINKS, AN ART SHOW AND SOME *MOURNFUL* GYRATING. THAT'S A PRETTY SOLID *FIRST DATE*, RIGHT?

EVEN IN A DREAM

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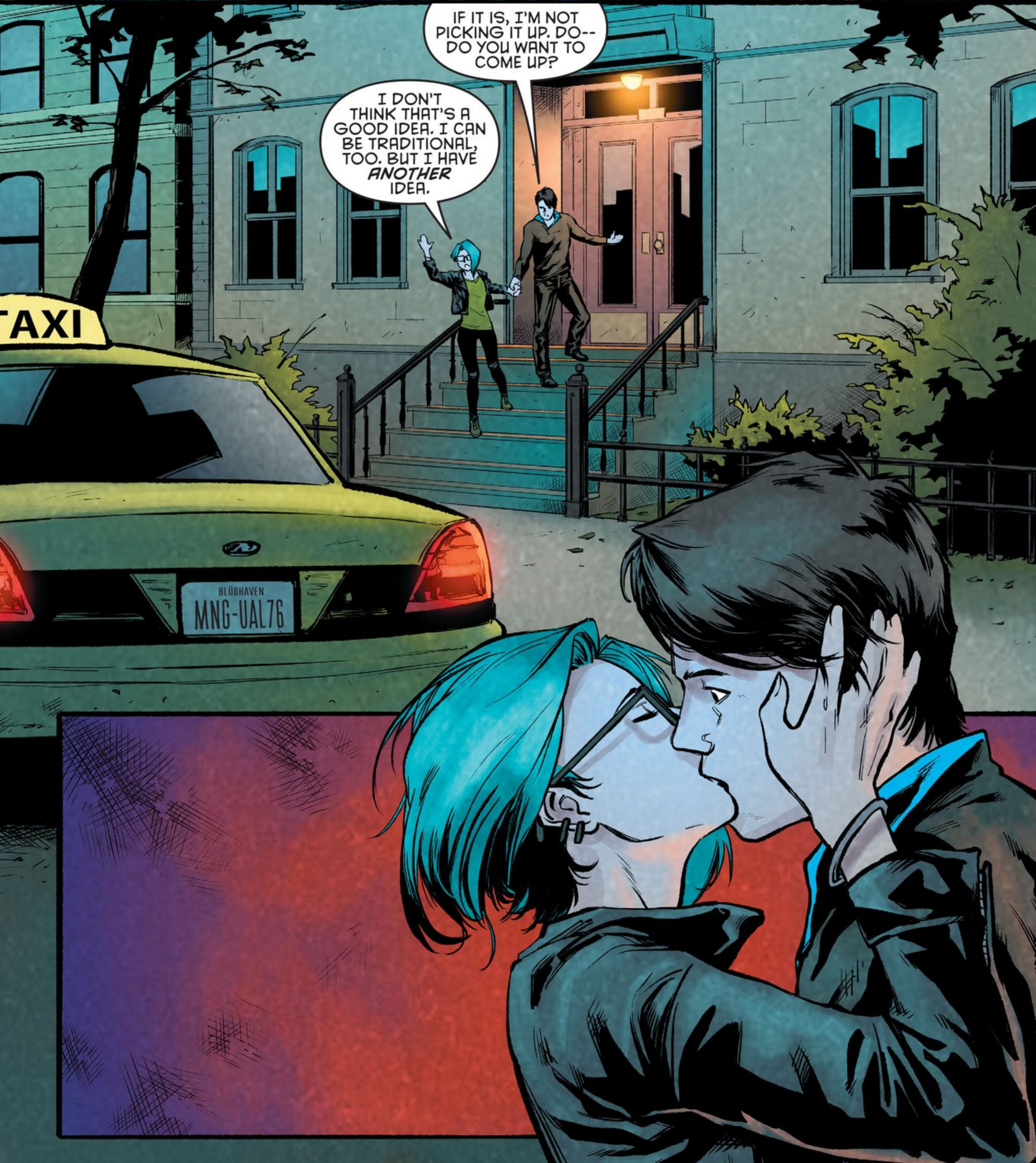
NIGHTWING CREATED BY
MARV WOLFMAN & GEORGE PÉREZ



RIGHT OUT OF THE BOOKS. I DIDN'T PEG YOU FOR SUCH A *TRADITIONAL* TYPE.

BUT NOW THE *QUESTION* IS-- IS THAT A WELL-TIMED CALL THAT YOU CAN PICK UP AND USE AS AN *EXCUSE* IF IT WAS GOING TO HELL?

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



IF IT IS, I'M NOT PICKING IT UP. DO-- DO YOU WANT TO COME UP?

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. I CAN BE TRADITIONAL, TOO. BUT I HAVE *ANOTHER* IDEA.

TAXI

BLÜDHAVEN
MNG-UAL76



SO
I ASSUME IT
WENT WELL? SPARE
NO DETAILS.
NOW.

JEEZ,
WALLY, YOU'RE
SO IMPATIENT.

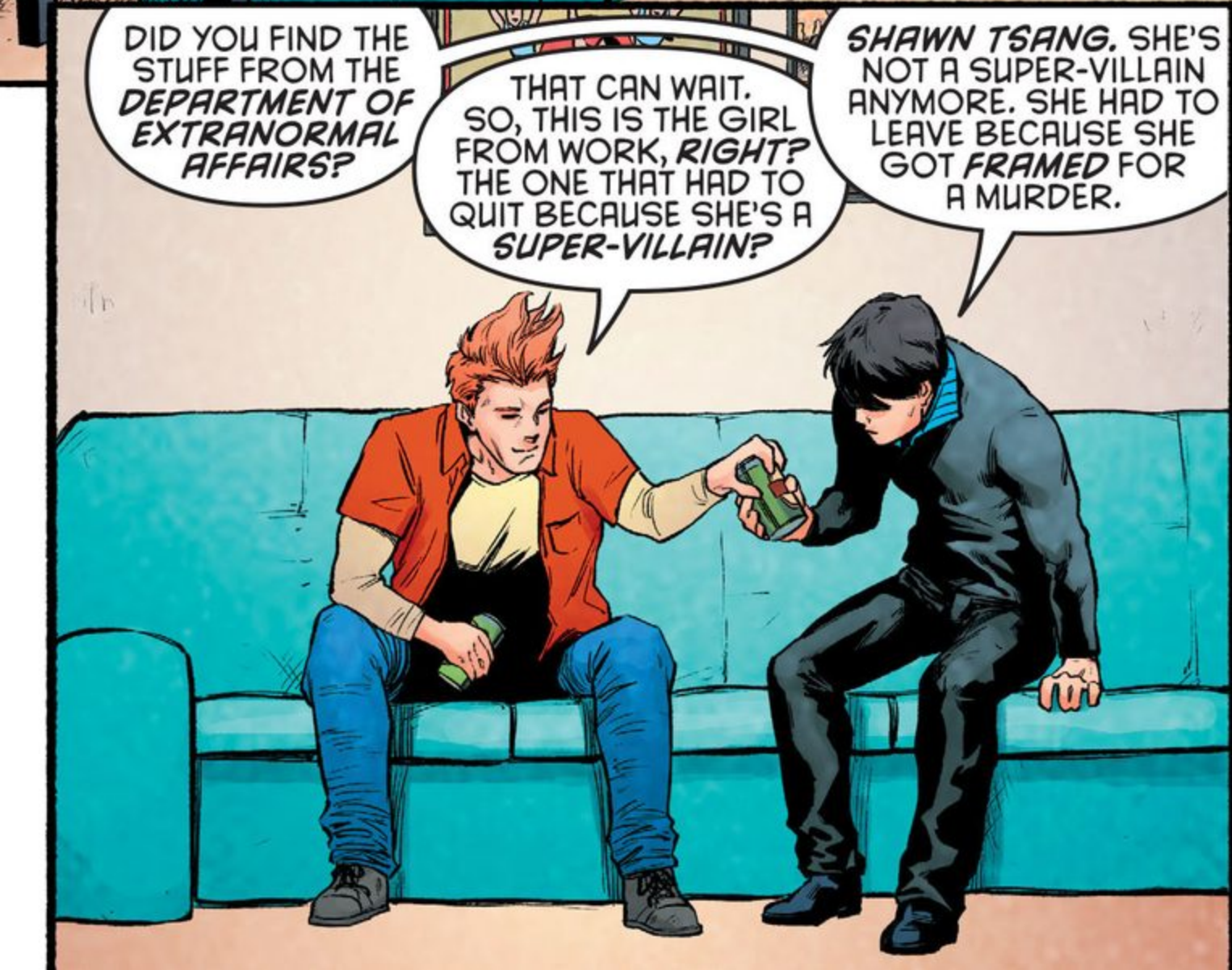


I'M NOT
IMPATIENT. I JUST
WISH EVERYTHING
MOVED AS FAST AS I
DO, BUT IT DOESN'T--
AND YOU KNOW
WHAT?



THIS IS A
CONVERSATION
TO BE HAD ON A
COUCH WITH
BEERS.

SHOOM



DID YOU FIND THE
STUFF FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF
EXTRANORMAL
AFFAIRS?

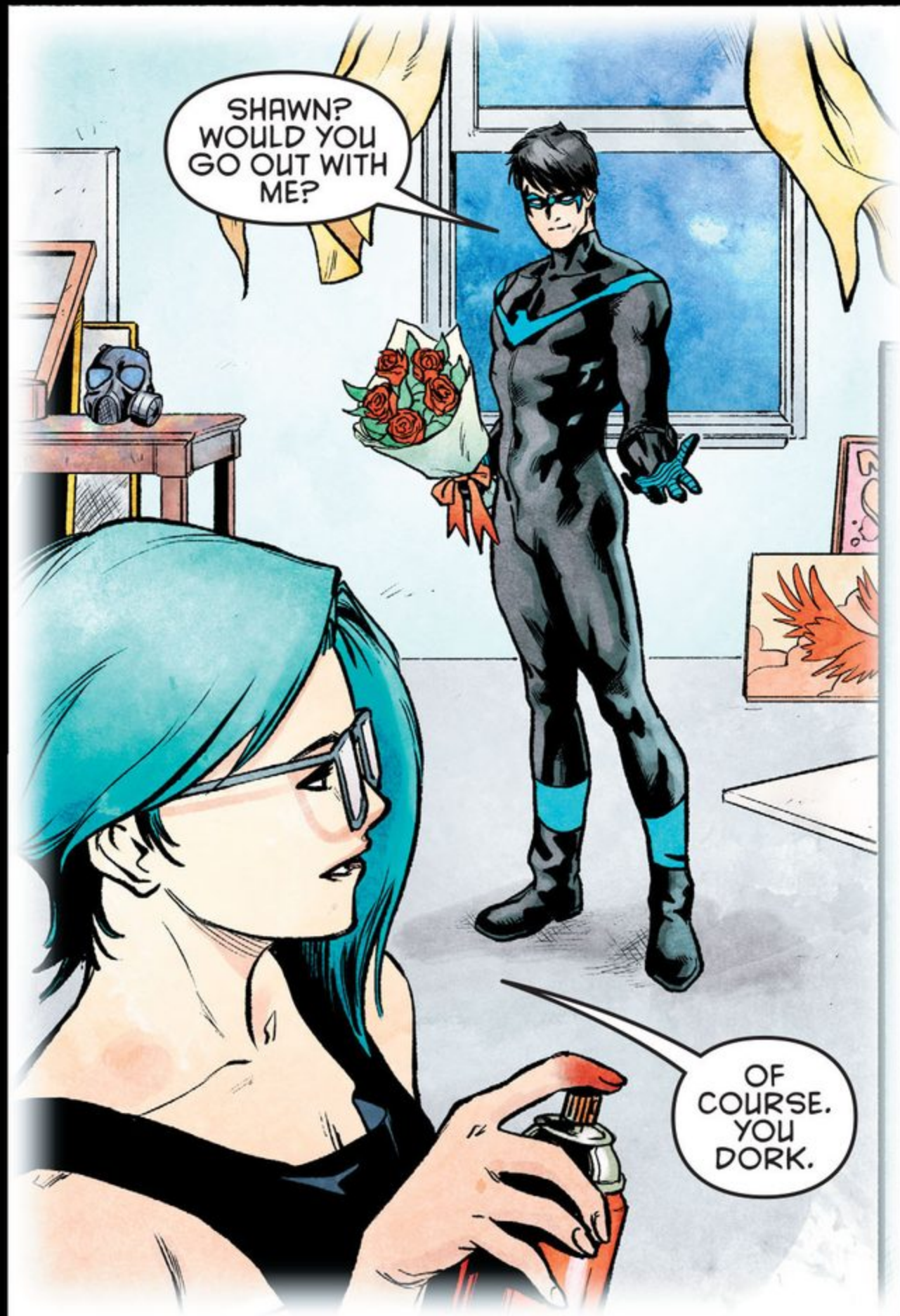
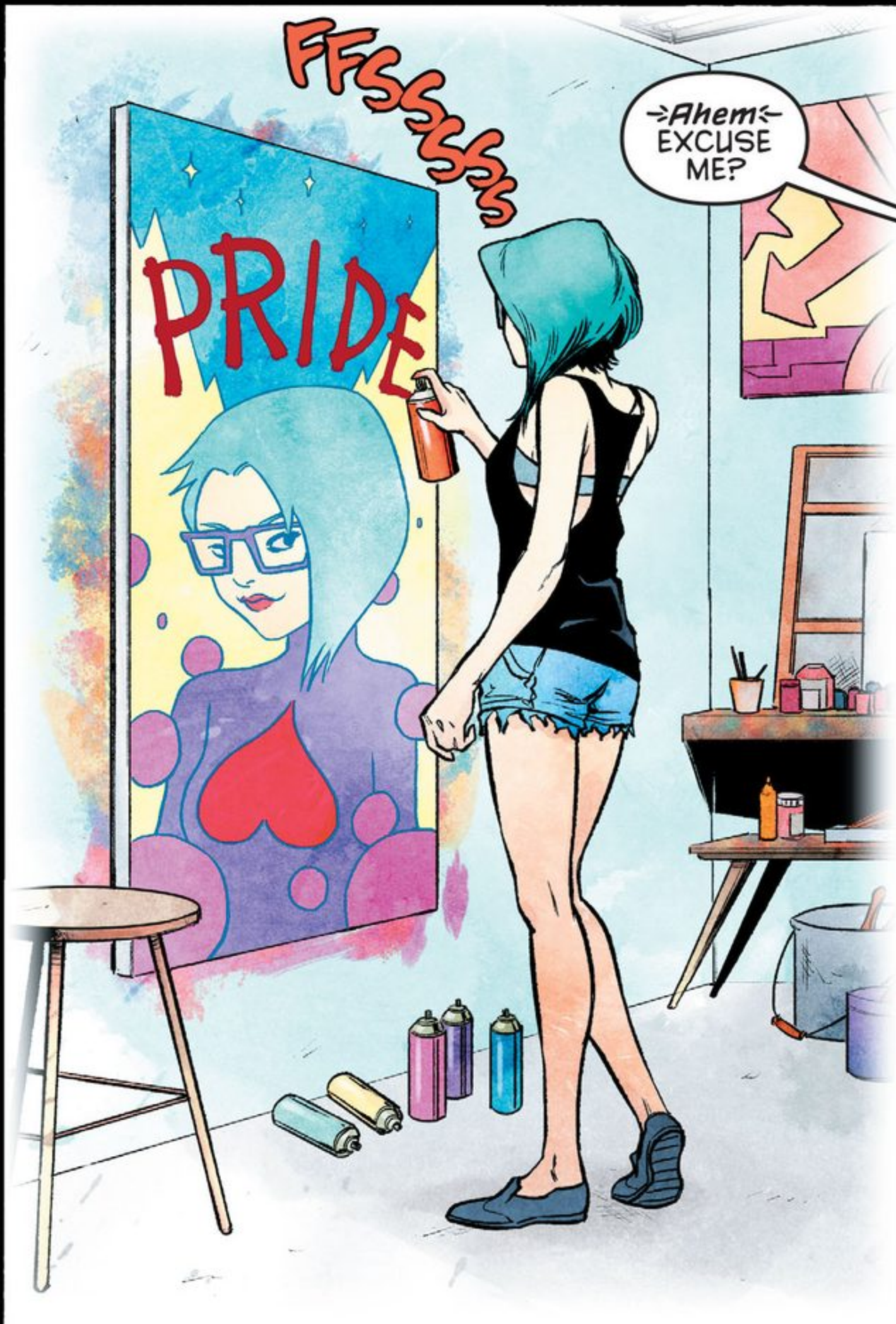
THAT CAN WAIT.
SO, THIS IS THE GIRL
FROM WORK, RIGHT?
THE ONE THAT HAD TO
QUIT BECAUSE SHE'S A
SUPER-VILLAIN?

SHAWN TSANG. SHE'S
NOT A SUPER-VILLAIN
ANYMORE. SHE HAD TO
LEAVE BECAUSE SHE
GOT **FRAMED** FOR
A MURDER.



MAN, YOU JUST DO
NOT LIKE TO MAKE
YOUR LIFE SIMPLE,
DO YOU?
HOW'D YOU
BROACH DINNER
AND A MOVIE AFTER
A CRIMINAL
CONSPIRACY?

WELL--



62 DAYS AGO.

Mmm.
DICK. YOU
HAVE TO GET
DRESSED FOR
WORK.

THAT'S
A *SUNRISE*,
NOT A
SUNSET.

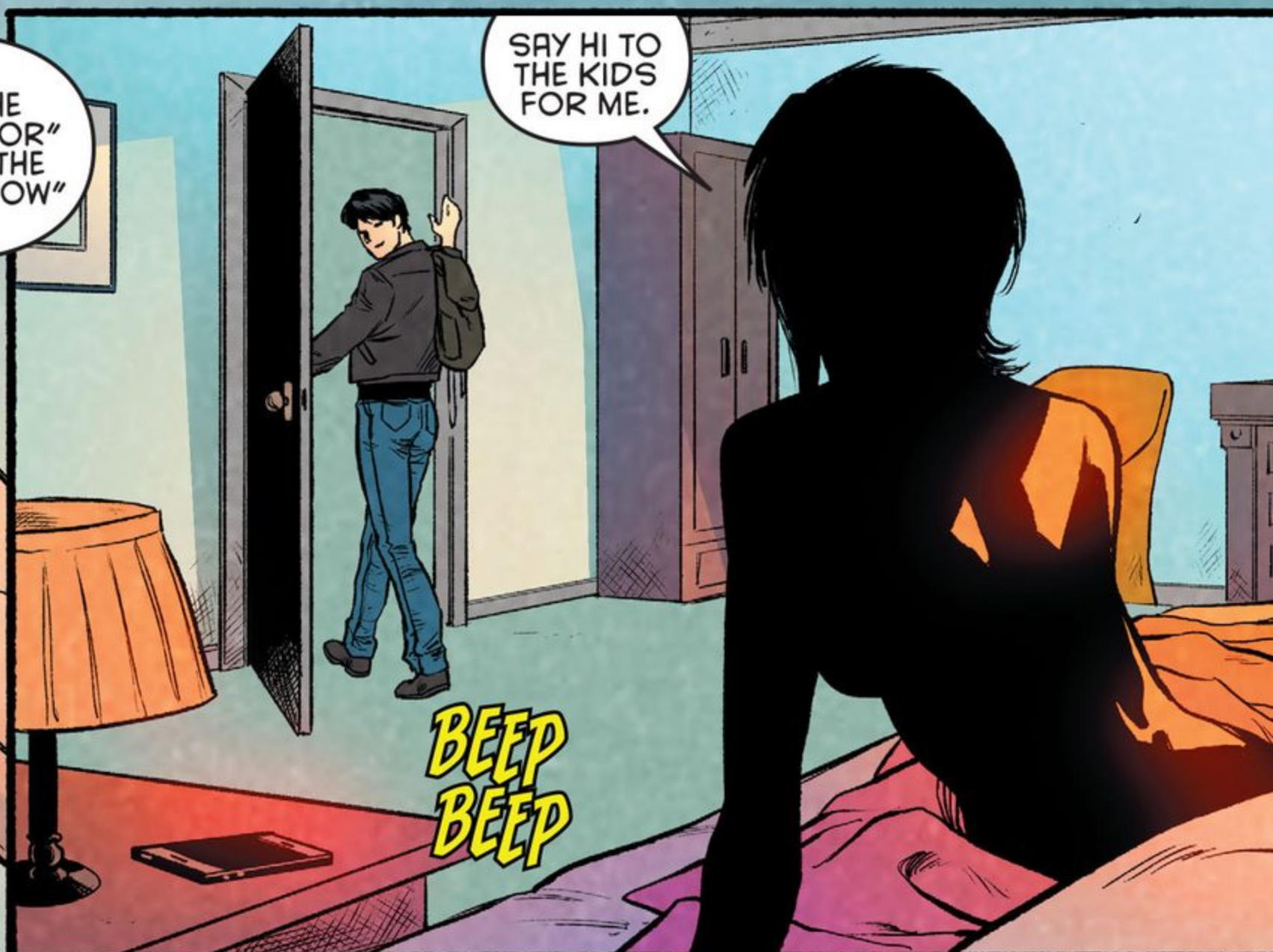
Hrn. OH.
RIGHT.



I HAVE
TO DO THE
"FRONT DOOR"
JOB, NOT THE
"REAR WINDOW"
JOB.

SAY HI TO
THE KIDS
FOR ME.

**BEEP
BEEP**



SO...?

RANDY. IT
HAPPENED.



IT WAS A
LONG NIGHT
AT THE *DUDE*
RANCH.



SO DON'T YOU
GO SKIMPING
ON ANY A' THEM
DETAILS.

WELL,
WE DIDN'T HAVE
ANYTHING PLANNED.
HE DIDN'T WANT TO
GET PRESUMPTUOUS,
I GUESS. BUT
THEN--





SHAWN.
I HATE TO DO
THIS...BUT CAN
I COME IN?

ARE YOU
OKAY?



YEAH.

YOU'RE
DRIPPING ON
THE FLOOR! WHAT
HAPPENED?

JUST
HAD TO
DUCK THE COPS.
THEY STILL AREN'T
TOO HOT ON ME
DOING "THEIR"
JOB.



HEADED OFF THIS
ASSASSIN BEFORE
SHE COULD DO HER
THING TO THE
COMMISSIONER'S
SON.

AN
ASSASSIN?

YEAH.
*BLONDE
BRITISH LADY
WITH KUKRIS.*
KINDA
SNOTTY.



DICK.

NO MORE
SUPERHERO
STUFF FOR
TONIGHT.

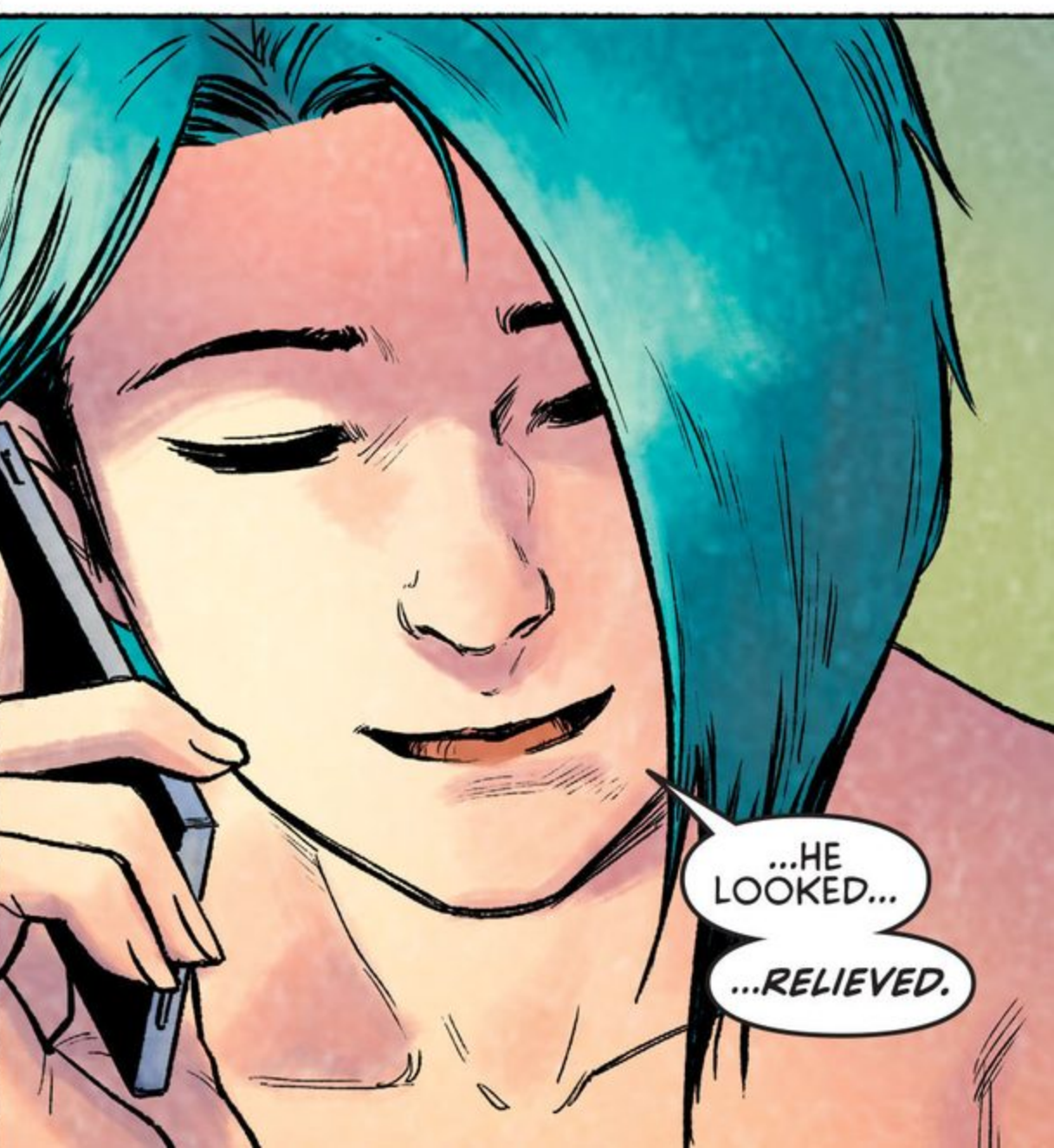
YEAH?



SEE, NO ONE CAN BE AS SWEET
AND BORING AS GRAYSON
PUTS ON. I KNEW THAT BOY
HADDA BE WILDER THAN AN
ACRE OF SNAKES.

HOW'D HE
LOOK OUTTA HIS
CLOTHES?

HONESTLY...



...HE
LOOKED...

...RELIEVED.

41 DAYS AGO.

SO
HOW'S IT
GOING WITH
THE NEW
CHICK?

IS A
STAKEOUT
THE BEST PLACE
FOR MAN-CHAT,
RED HOOD?

C'MON,
GRAYSON.
WE'RE TRACKING
DOWN *THE*
MADMEN.

WE
COULD START
A POETRY SLAM
AND STILL BUST
THESE DORKS.

FAIR
POINT.

SO,
SPILL.

IT'S
GOING...Y'KNOW...
IT'S GOING
GOOD.

JEEZ,
THAT'S THE KIND OF
RINGING ENDORSEMENT
I USED TO GET OUT OF
BATMAN WHEN I MANAGED
TO NOT *DIE*. WHAT'S UP?

IT'S GREAT.
SHE'S GREAT.
IT'S JUST, LAST
NIGHT...

Huh.
THAT'S HIM.
TALKING JOHNNY
FROM THE "ALL-
NIGHT BULL
SESSION."

WAIT, THAT'S
THE *SHOCK JOCK*
THAT SAID NIGHTWING
WAS A DANGER AND
SHOULD BE
SHOT?



I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK.

SHAWN.
DON'T. IT'S
NO BIG DEAL.
HE WAS JUST
TRYING TO GET
A REACTION.



I'LL GIVE
THIS FAT JERK A
REACTION...



HA HA. THE
WHOLE GLASS?
SO, SHE'S GOT
A TEMPER.

YA
THINK?



YOU GIVE HER
SOMETHING
TO FIGHT FOR,
GRAYSON.

TAKE IT
FROM ME.
ANGRY PEOPLE
ARE ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE TO
HELP THEM
DIRECT THEIR
RAGE.

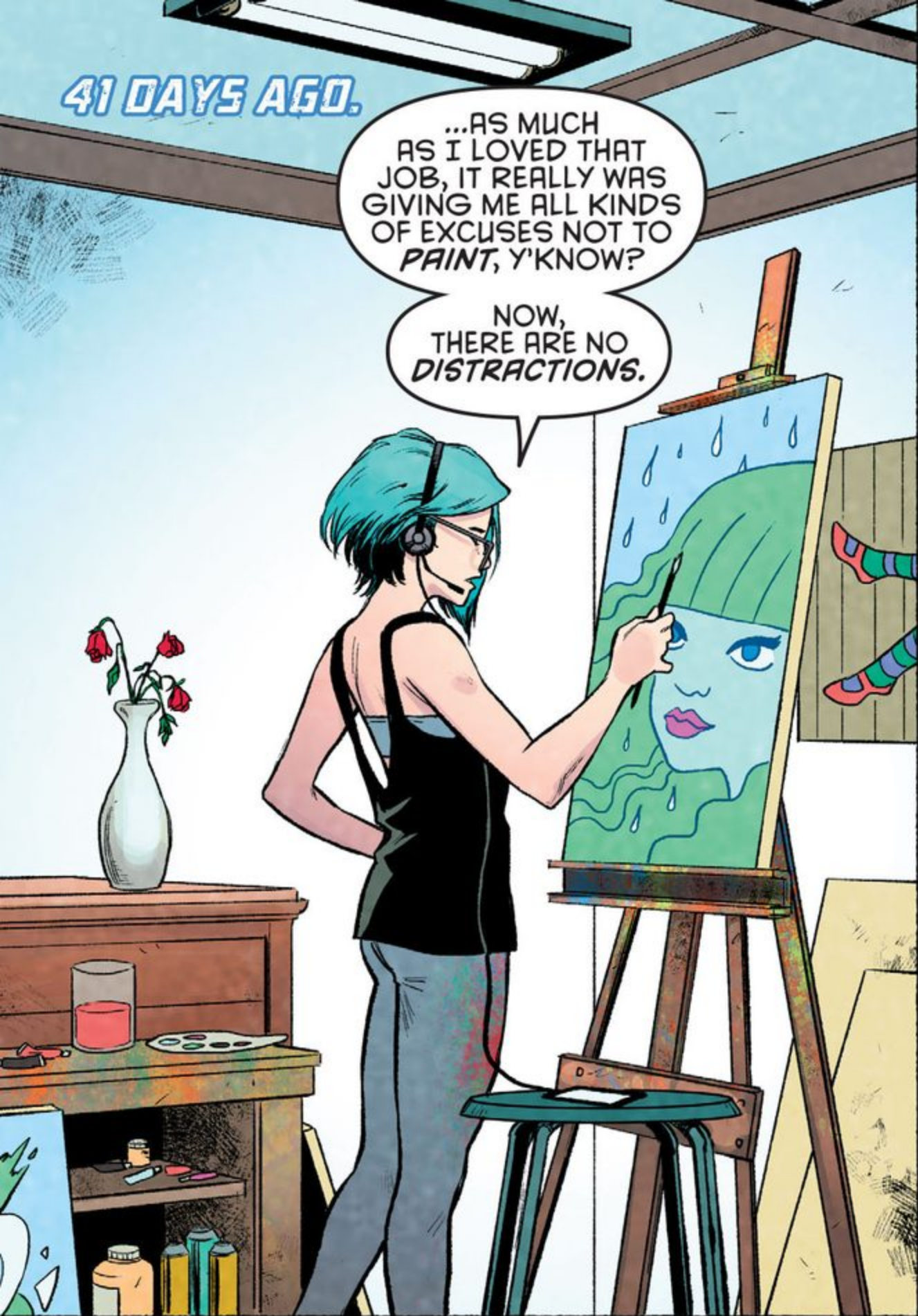


I MEAN...
LOOK AT
US.

41 DAYS AGO.

...AS MUCH AS I LOVED THAT JOB, IT REALLY WAS GIVING ME ALL KINDS OF EXCUSES NOT TO PAINT, Y'KNOW?

NOW, THERE ARE NO DISTRACTIONS.



WELL, EXCEPT FOR MR. GRAYSON, RIGHT? **EVERYTHING** ABOUT THAT BOY IS **DISTRACTING**.

CHIT CHIT.

YEAH. SOME THINGS MORE THAN OTHERS.



UH-OH. TROUBLE IN PARADISE?

YES. NO. I DUNNO. LAST NIGHT...

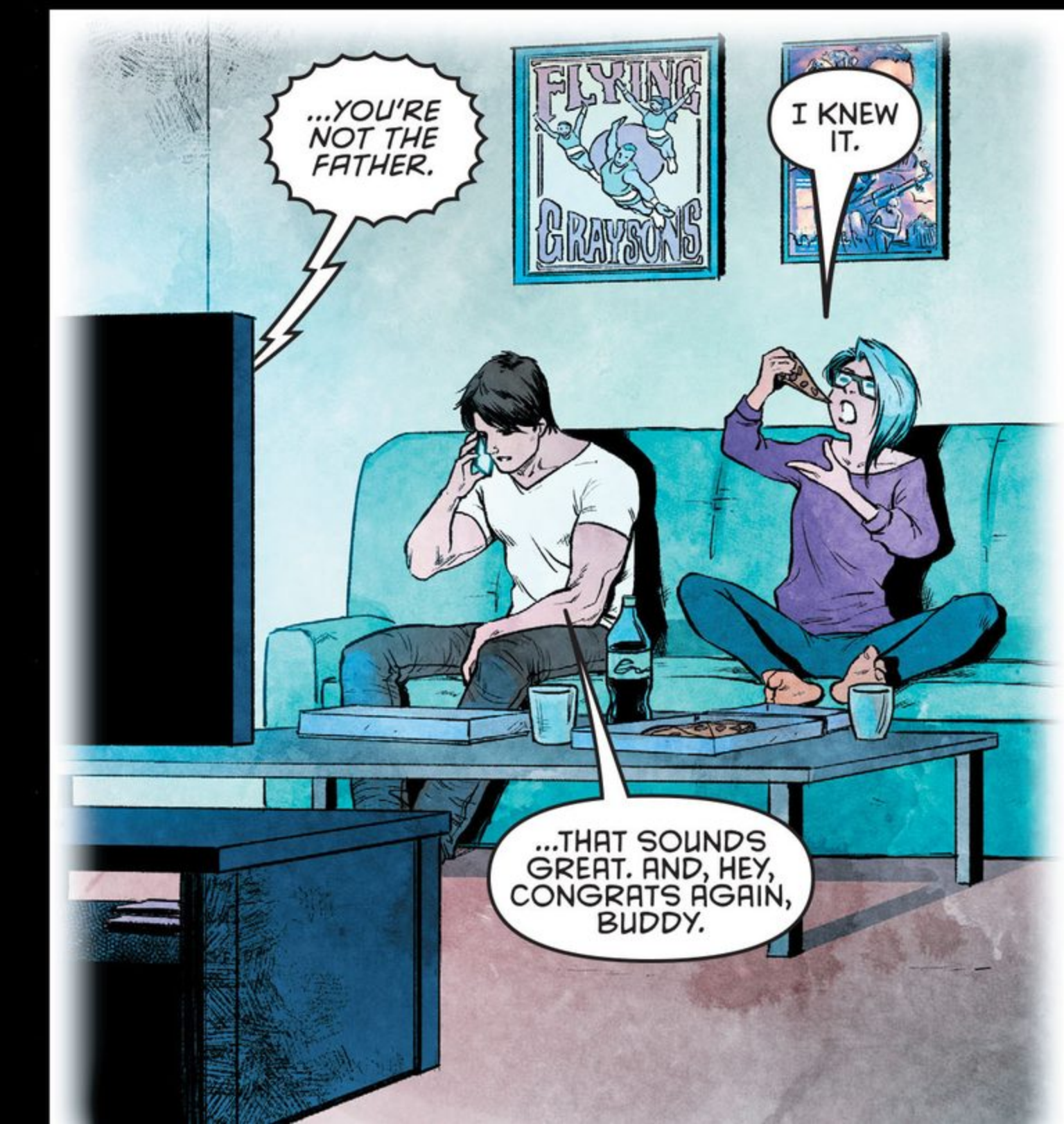


...YOU'RE NOT THE FATHER.

I KNEW IT.



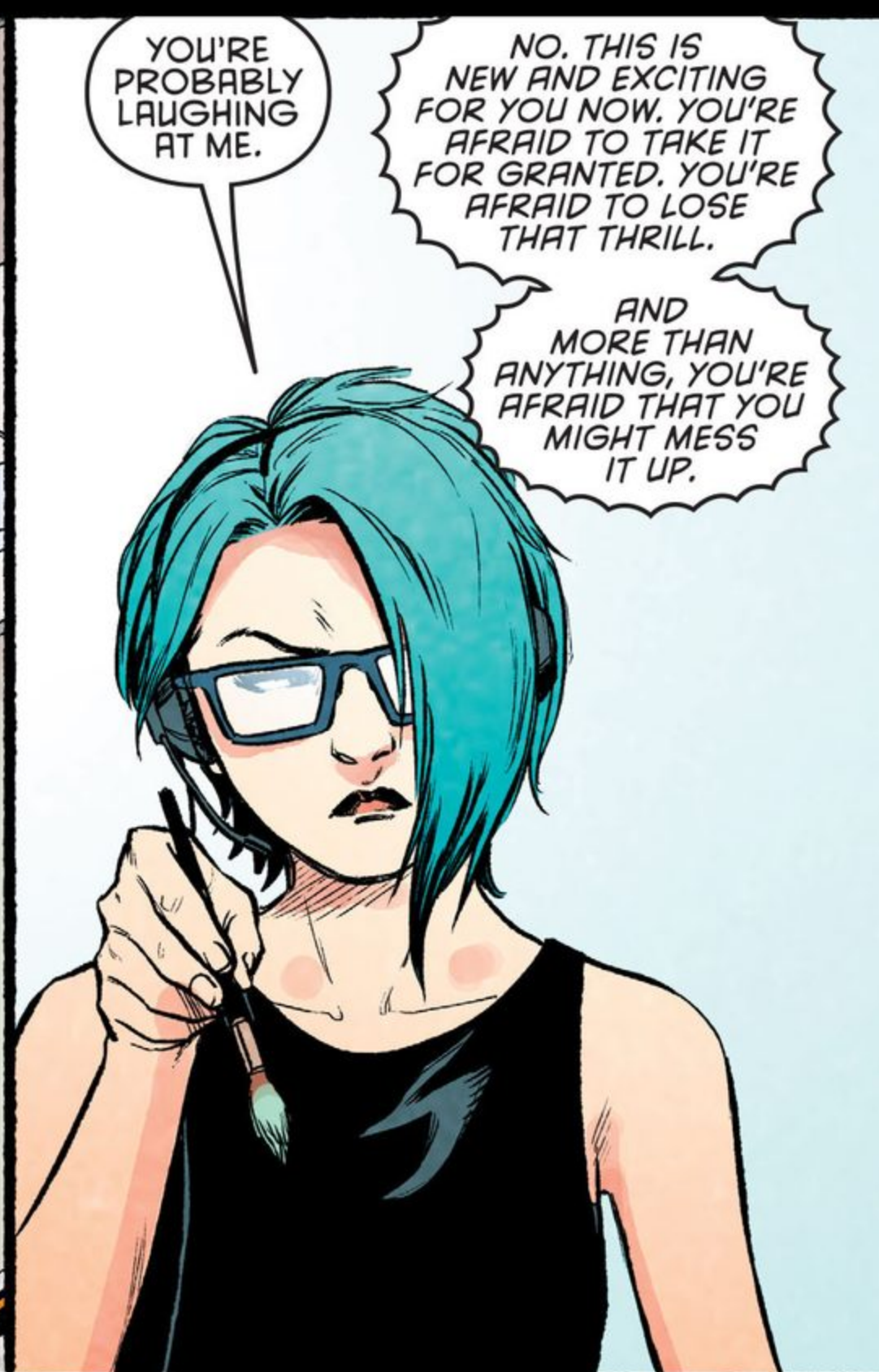
...THAT SOUNDS GREAT. AND, HEY, CONGRATS AGAIN, BUDDY.



THAT WAS MY FRIEND TOMBO, FROM THE HALY'S DAYS. HE'S GETTING MARRIED, AND WE'RE INVITED.

OH COOL. CIRCUS WEDDING. WHEN? NEXT WEEK?





SO,
ROBIN SAYS
YOU HAVE A NEW
GIRLFRIEND.

17 DAYS AGO.

THAT'S
NICE OF HIM
TO TELL AN EX
ABOUT MY
LOVE LIFE,
STARFIRE.

HE USES IT AS A
MEANS TO REMIND
ME I'M NOT
SPECIAL.

HAVE
YOU MET THIS
NEW WOMAN'S
PARENTS?

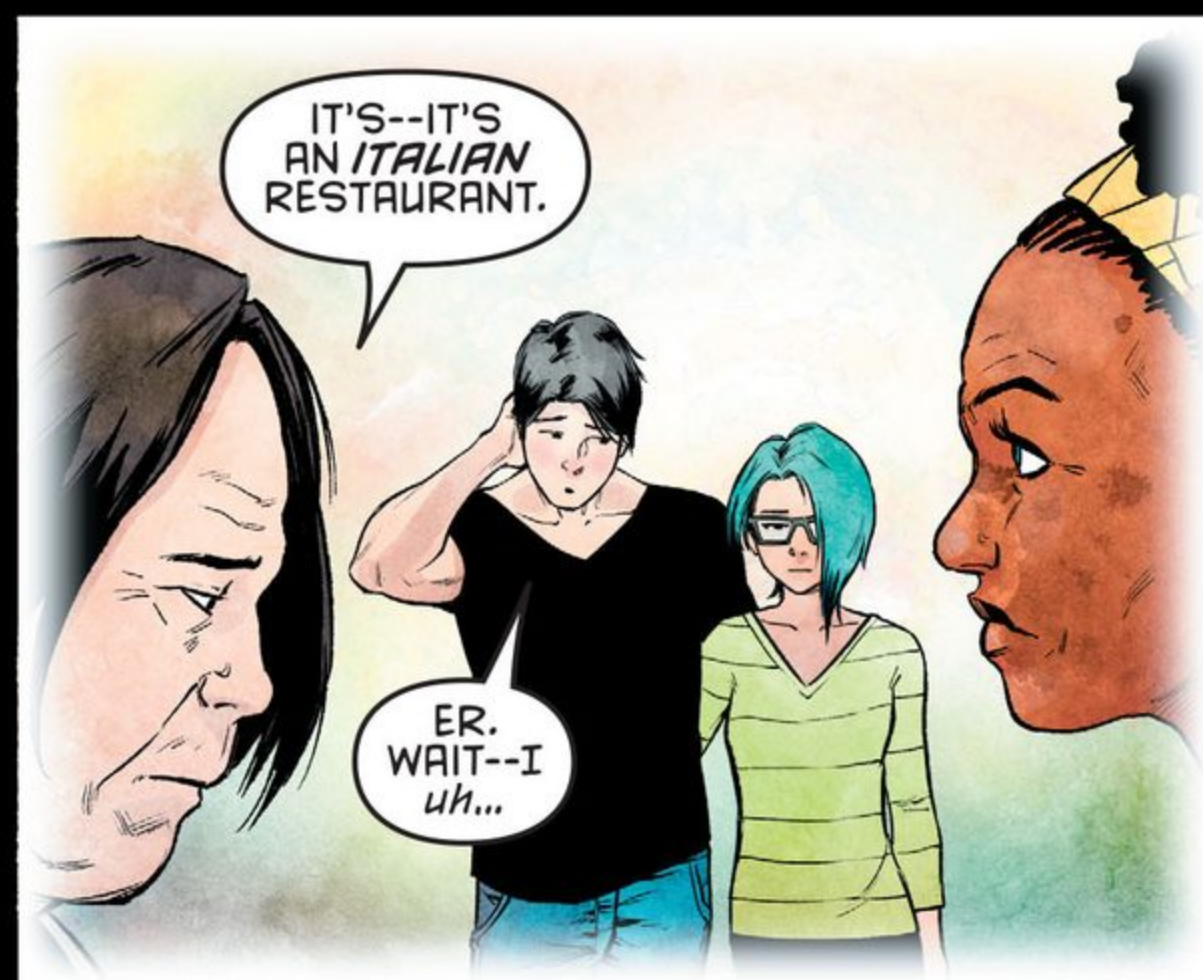
YEAH. I HAD
DINNER WITH HER DAD
AND STEPMOM FOR THE
FIRST TIME LAST NIGHT
BEFORE I FLEW OUT
HERE, ACTUALLY.

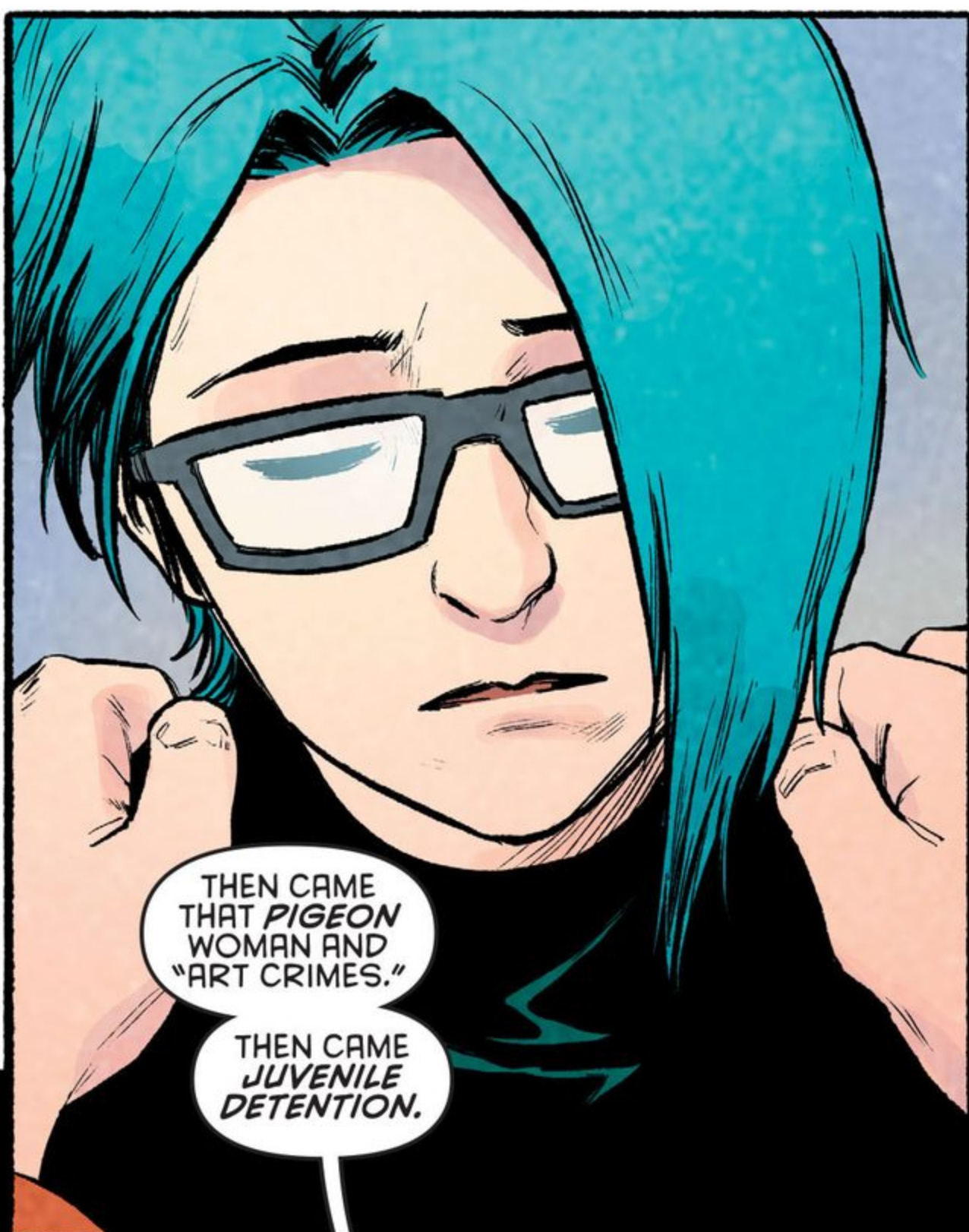
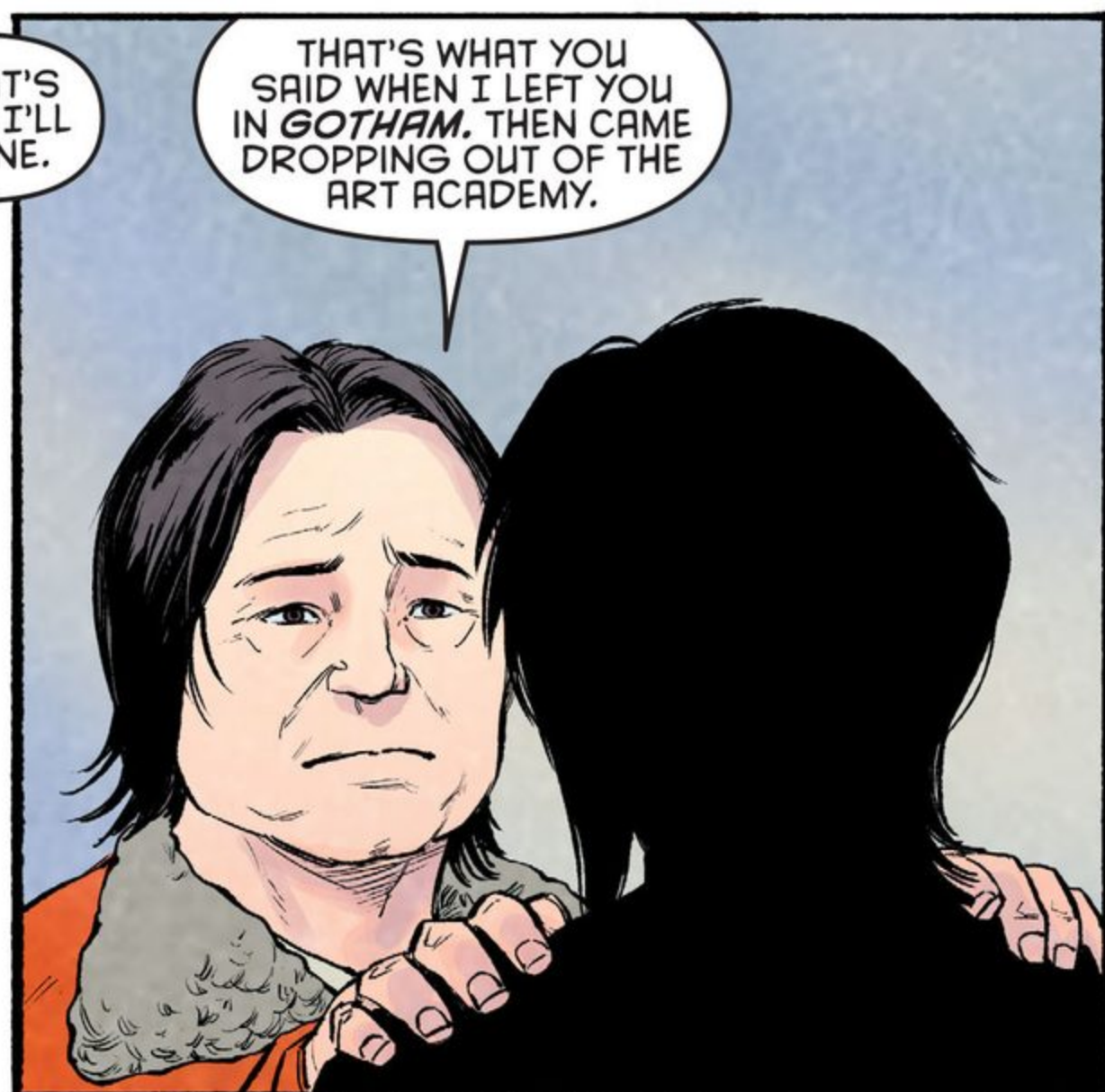
REMEMBER
WHEN YOU MET
MY RELATIVES FROM
THE TAMARANEAN
ROYAL FAMILY?

YOU
INSULTED THE
X'HALLIC WAR
PRIEST BY
TURNING DOWN
HIS GIFT OF
BOILED INTHAR
TESTICLES.

THIS MUST
HAVE BEEN MUCH
LESS AWKWARD
THAN THAT.

WELL...







THAT'S IT!
I CAN'T DO THIS,
DICK! I CAN'T BE IN
THIS RELATIONSHIP.
I THINK I SHOULD
JUST...I SHOULD JUST
BE ALONE. YOU
SHOULD GO.



BECAUSE...

...BECAUSE
I LEFT THE
WINDOW
OPEN?

MY
BEDROOM
WINDOW!



I THINK YOU'RE MAD
ABOUT THAT. AND
THAT'S FAIR. THAT
WAS DUMB AND
CARELESS.

BUT I THINK
YOU'RE ALSO
AFRAID. AFRAID
THAT I'LL FIND OUT
YOU'RE STILL THE
DEFACER DEEP
DOWN.

YOU'RE AFRAID
YOU'LL DISAPPOINT
ME, AND YOU'D
RATHER BLOW THIS
UP NOW BEFORE
YOU'RE TOO
ATTACHED.



BUT I KNOW YOU,
SHAWN. I KNOW YOU
AREN'T THAT PERSON
ANYMORE.

NOT
ANYMORE.

YOU
NEVER
WERE.

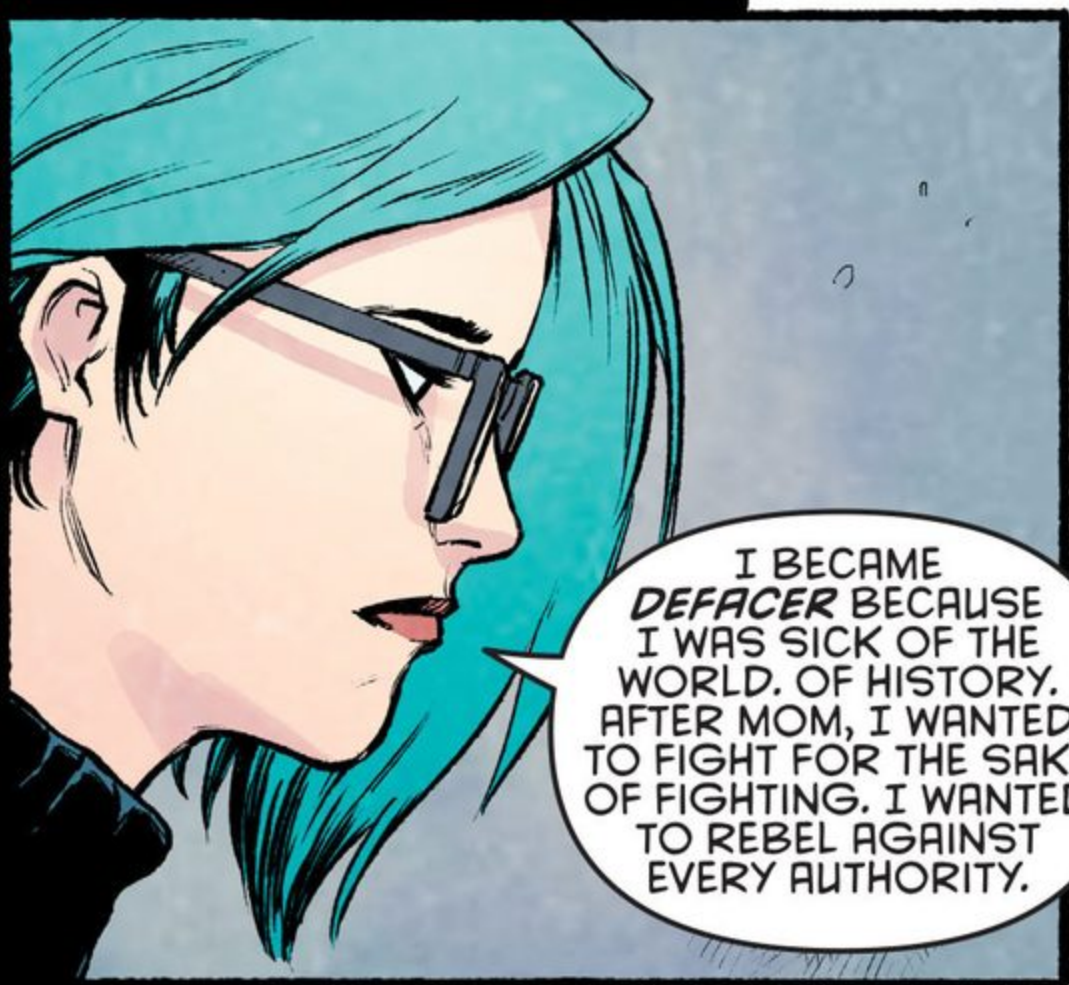


DICK...



DON'T
GO.

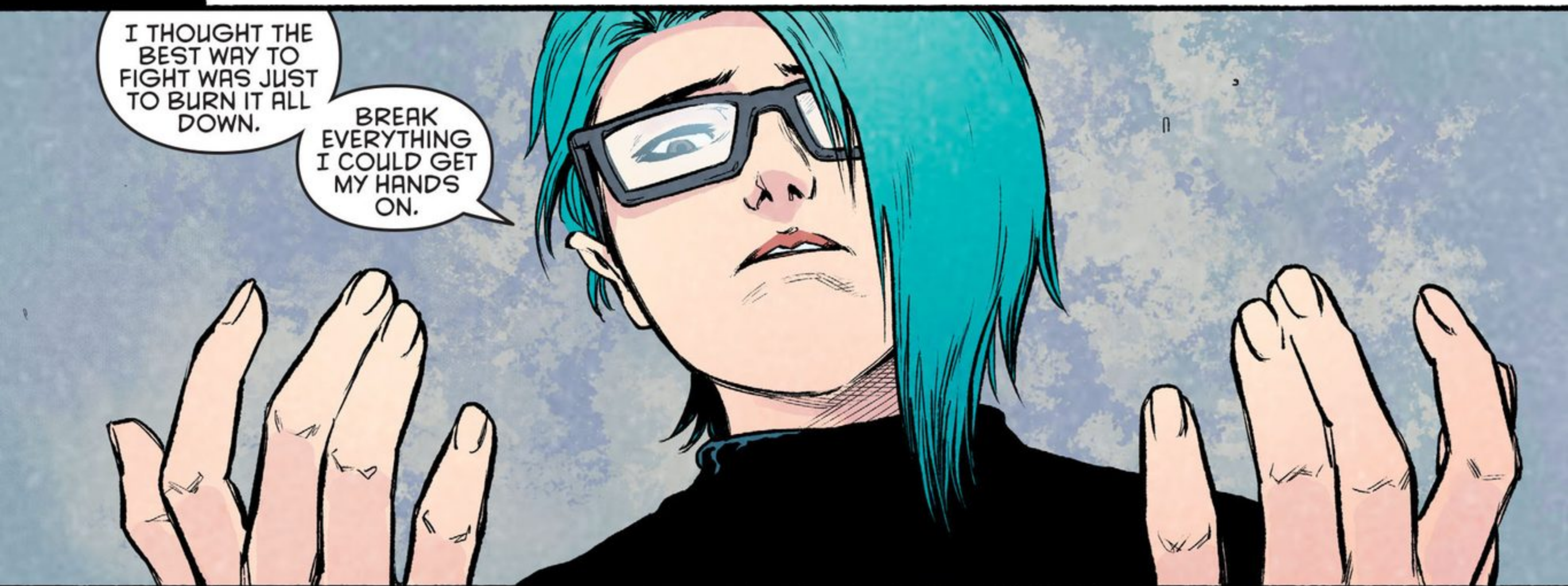
Hmf.
I WON'T.



I BECAME **DEFACER** BECAUSE I WAS SICK OF THE WORLD. OF HISTORY. AFTER MOM, I WANTED TO FIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF FIGHTING. I WANTED TO REBEL AGAINST EVERY AUTHORITY.

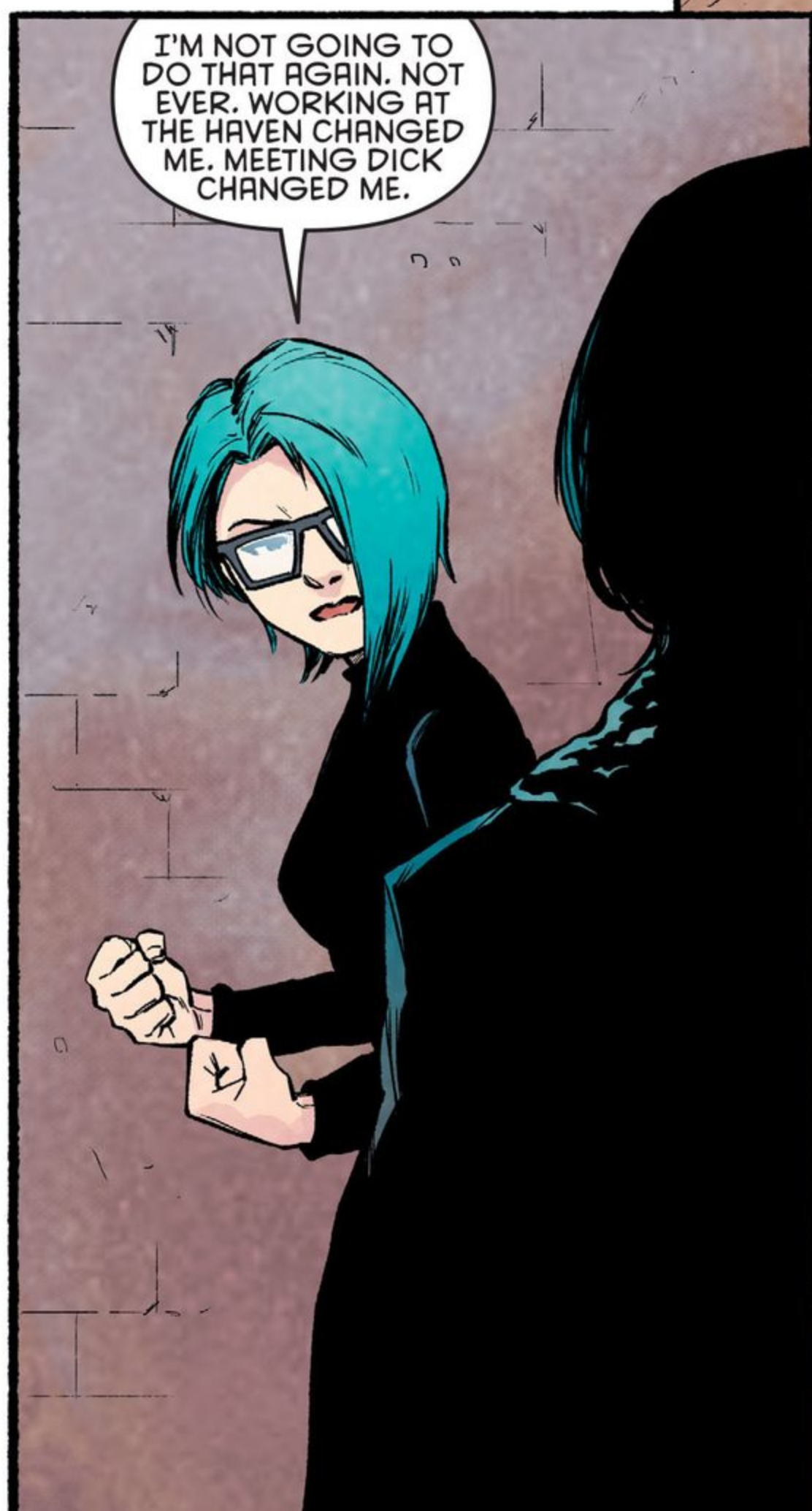


EVEN YOU, DAD.



I THOUGHT THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT WAS JUST TO BURN IT ALL DOWN.

BREAK EVERYTHING I COULD GET MY HANDS ON.



I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT AGAIN. NOT EVER. WORKING AT THE HAVEN CHANGED ME. MEETING DICK CHANGED ME.



I DON'T WANT TO **FIGHT**. I DON'T WANT TO BREAK THINGS.

I WANT TO **BUILD** SOMETHING.

4 DAYS AGO.

HEY.

HEY.

IT'S BEEN...A WHILE.

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING ROOFTOPS, DOESN'T IT?

HERE. I CALLED IN SOME FAVORS. THIS IS ALL THE INFO YOU NEED TO TAKE DOWN COUNCILMAN ABEL.

HE WAS USING THE MADMEN TO BREAK INTO THE D.A.'S OFFICE AND THEN SELLING THE CANDIDATE VETTING INFO TO THE CHURCH OF BLOOD FOR BLACKMAIL PURPOSES.

THAT'S A HELL OF AN OLIVE BRANCH.

I OWED YOU AFTER RAPTOR. I--I'M SORRY, BABS. I'M SORRY FOR THE WAY I'VE TREATED YOU. FOR KEEPING THINGS FROM YOU.

NO. I'M SORRY, TOO. I JUDGED YOU TOO HARSHLY, DICK. YOU DON'T ALWAYS DO WHAT I WOULD DO...BUT YOU ALWAYS DO THINGS WITH THE BEST INTENTIONS.

LAST TIME WE TALKED, YOU SAID THAT SOMETIMES I SWING OUT TOO FAR JUST SO I DON'T HAVE TO SWING BACK. THAT I KEEP PUSHING MYSELF FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY.

BABS... YOU'RE RIGHT.



WHEN MY PARENTS DIED, LIFE MADE A CHOICE FOR ME. I *HAD* TO STOP WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM FROM HAPPENING TO ANYONE ELSE.

AFTER THAT, I JUST WENT WITH THE FLOW. REACTED. FOUGHT BACK.



I JUST STAYED IN THE AIR, GOING WHERE THE CURRENT TOOK ME.

STAYING UP ABOVE IT ALL MEANT I NEVER HAD TO CHOOSE A PLACE TO PUT MY FEET ON THE GROUND.



BUT I'VE CHOSEN NOW. A PLACE TO SWING BACK TO.

AND A PERSON.



AND IT'S NOT GOTHAM. AND IT'S NOT--



DON'T YOU BREAK HER HEART, DICK GRAYSON.

YESTERDAY.

My tale of romance is almost over. And maybe you're thinking...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, **DICK**. NICE WORK ON THE COUNCILMAN ABEL CASE.

...that was pretty breezy, Dick. Where's the stakes?! The tragedy?

DO YOU ACCEPT THE CHARGES FROM BLACKGATE PENITENTIARY?

HEY, **PIGEON**.

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, **SHAWN**. IT'S BEEN... YEARS. THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME YOUR LATEST WORK.

I get it. Because heroes in stories represent us all.

YOU'RE LIKING BLÜDHAVEN?

YEAH. I THINK I CAN DO A LOT OF GOOD THERE, Y'KNOW?

THE FAMILY MISSES HAVING YOU HERE, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE. YOU LOOK... HAPPY.

All of us relate to what it's like for people we love to be caught in our own conflicts.

I'VE BEEN PAINTING EVERY DAY AND I WANTED YOU TO SEE IT, **PIGEON**. TO SEE I CAN STILL CREATE AND I CAN DO IT WITHOUT DESTROYING ANYTHING.

ACCEPTING YOUR SINS. IT'S A BOLD STATEMENT. IT'S DOING YOU GOOD, I THINK. YOU SEEM... DIFFERENT.

That theme goes back to the origins of heroic fiction. To Gilgamesh. To Prometheus. To Hercules.

YOU'RE DATING THE DEFACER? IT TOOK WEEKS TO CLEAN THE STATUE OF JUSTICE...

SHE DOESN'T DO THAT ANYMORE, BRUCE. HER NAME IS SHAWN. SHE'S AN ARTIST.

This reminds me of a play by a guy named Euripides.

IT'S NOT JUST THE ART. I MET THIS GUY. I FINALLY LET SOMEONE IN. HIS NAME IS DICK. HE'S A...SOCIAL WORKER.

It takes place during the Labors, when Herc goes to get Cerberus from the underworld.

WE JUST DO NORMAL THINGS. WE COOK BECAUSE IT'S HEALTHIER. WE ORDER TAKEOUT BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO COOK. WE SAY WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT DANCING AND THEN WATCH BAD TV ON THE COUCH. WE ARGUE ABOUT LOADING THE DISHWASHER.

His wife and children are sentenced to death while he's gone, by a usurper named Lycus.

WE TALK ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT, AND ABOUT THINGS THAT TOTALLY AREN'T. WE LAUGH. WE CRY.

WE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

SHE'S NOT LIKE ANYONE ELSE I'VE EVER DATED. SHE'S HONEST AND FORTHCOMING. SHE'S GOT SOME STUFF IN HER PAST THAT SHE ISN'T PROUD OF, BUT SHE OWNS IT. SHE WEARS IT ON THE OUTSIDE.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO MASK ANY PART OF WHO SHE IS.

WHICH MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO EITHER.

HE KNOWS WHO I AM. HE KNOWS WHO I WAS. AND HE ACCEPTS THAT, WITH ALL OF THE CONSEQUENCES THAT MEANT, AND COULD MEAN.

Herc kills his kids. His wife, Megara.

Herc gets back just in time to save them, but then Hera strikes him with madness.

HE DOESN'T ASK ME TO BE SOMEONE I'M NOT OR HAVE NEVER--

Hercules realizes it's his fault. That Megara's life was cut short because he'd dared to do one thing. That at one point he'd said...

I LOVE HER.

This is the part that gets me now. That I relate to. That I wish I didn't.

While he's lamenting, Herc pleads to Megara. He says through tears and guilt...

"Come back."

"Even as a shadow."

SHAWN?

"Even as a dream."

NEXT: NIGHTWING MUST DIE!



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T H E W I L D S T O R M

WARREN ELLIS

JON DAVIS-HUNT
F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 7



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by Dave Croatto
Pictures by Tom Richmond

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ON SALE
NOW!



THE WILD STORM

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Warren Ellis returns to DC to work on the characters that made him a household name among comic book fans. He will curate a new pop-up imprint, WildStorm, and write the first ongoing series, **THE WILD STORM**, with

art by Jon Davis-Hunt (Vertigo's **CLEAN ROOM**). The story will reset the known WildStorm universe and introduce new iterations of

WildStorm characters, such as Gritter, Voodoo, the Engineer, Jenny Sparks and others.

We got to sit down with Ellis and ask him a few questions about his upcoming project:

How will **THE WILD STORM** differ from your earlier criti-

cally acclaimed, best-selling work on **STORM WATCH** and **THE AUTHORITY**?

*I knew I wanted to preserve the themes from the original work by Jim and his friends—their fascinations with conspiracy theories and black ops, for instance. But that meant looking at the conspiracy-theory landscape of today, so there was a lot of research on, for example, the current state of UFOlogy and the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Additionally, I'm also taking a more novelistic approach. Every six issues is a short book, and **THE WILD STORM** is a four-book series—24 issues/chapters.*

You could have picked any artist. What made Jon Davis-Hunt the right one for this project?

That clean line, its modern feeling, his attention to acting and body language as well as his attention to detail

and environment. Kieron Gillen showed me his work, and my first reaction was, "That's the artist." And I was right, too.

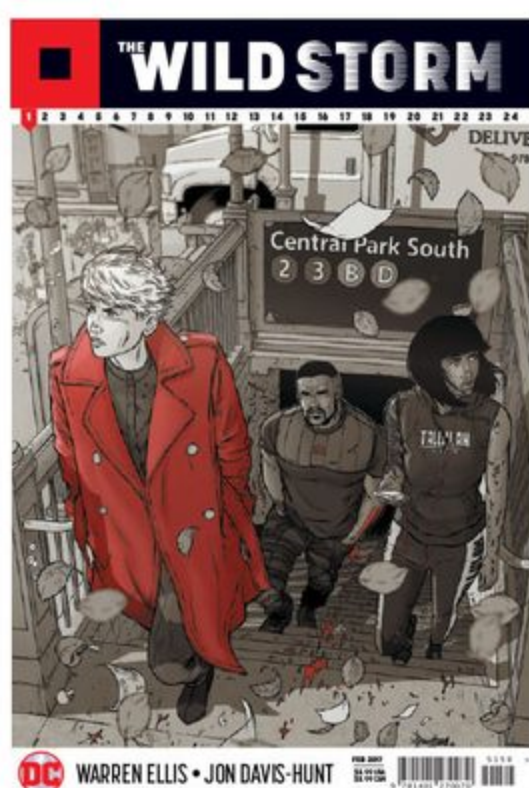
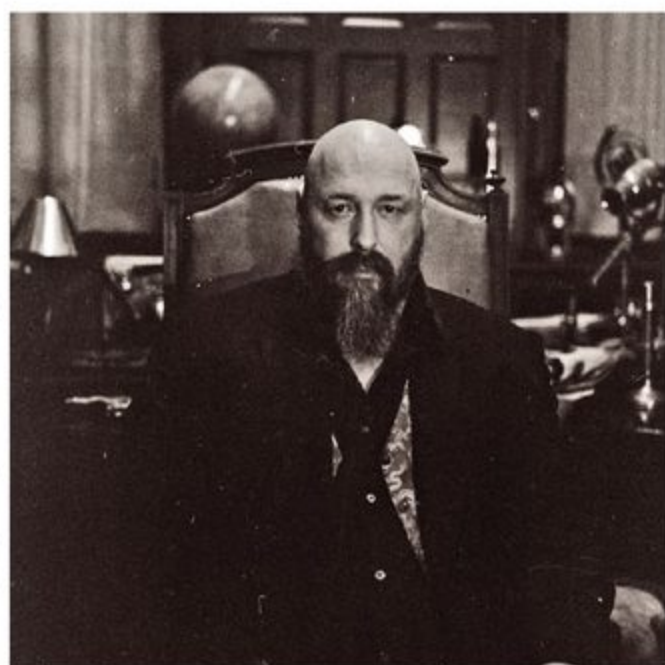
Do you need to have read any earlier stories to understand **THE WILD STORM**?

No. Not at all. I knew from the start that this would have to be a clean beginning, and we're all entering at the ground level.

THE WILD STORM is a unique combination of cosmic paranoia and paramilitary conspiracy for the post-political space madness, featuring characters from the past with a fresh twist that will have fans both new and old excited for Ellis' next futuristic saga. ■

Pick up **THE WILD STORM at your local comics shop this February!**

Photograph by Ellen J. Rogers.



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NIGHTWING 15, April, 2017. Published bimonthly by DC Comics, 2900 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NIGHTWING, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 8537, Big Sandy, TX 75755-8538. Subscription rate (12 issues) \$35.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2017 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/go/ratings.